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1. Beginning on 1 Sept 53 maneuvers were held in the area between Pisek and Plzen, with Czechoslovak troops only participating. The total number of soldiers was 26,000 to 27,000.
2. The whole of the maneuver could not be observed, but at least the following units took part: a corps command; two rifle divisions, known during the maneuver as the 12th and 13th; a motorized artillery regiment from Olomouc; an AAA regiment from Prague; four independent armored battalions; two engineer battalions; two communications battalions.
3. Reservists taking part in the maneuvers joined their units on 30 and 31 Aug 53. The main fuel depot was at Beroun. During the maneuvers the central gasoline depot was established in the beer brewery on the north edge of the town near the railroad station. To handle the gasoline there were five Skoda tank trucks, 11 trucks and a jeep for the commandant.
4. About 70 percent of the participants were reservists. The men on the active list were of the classes of 1930 and 1931, the reservists from those of 1922 to 1926. All were from Bohemia. An order of the day was issued forbidding the soldiers to write or receive letters during the period.
5. The theme of the maneuver was an offensive movement from the interior of the country toward the southwestern border.
6. To prevent defection toward West Germany, all roads leading to the border were guarded by patrols of mixed border guards, militia and police.
7. During the maneuvers the local civilians were pressed into service as auxiliaries. These civilians are supposed to be used for this purpose in the event of war, and one of the purposes of the exercises was to see how useful they would be. They were used most particularly in the transport service, where it was a test of how rapidly and well means of transport could be mobilized. Not only adults were used, but also minors who have undergone some paramilitary training. They were used as air observers, messengers and medical troops.

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8. Other auxiliary formations were required to dig tank traps and set up road barricades at the entrance to villages. Necessary materials and tools had to be found locally, according to the Soviet pattern. The work was carried out under the direction of engineer officers. As a rule the work was done slowly and badly, most of the civilians concerned never having performed such tasks before, and regarding the whole business with distaste. Things became no better at the end of the maneuvers, when the barricades had to be dismantled and it was discovered there was a good deal of damage.
9. This civilian participation followed the Soviet pattern of World War II, the civilians not being advised in advance but called upon suddenly as needed. Any refusal was rendered impossible. Peasants were taken from the fields and set to work with their horses. Thousands of loads of building material had to be delivered. Naturally, the Communist Party fully supported the movement and told the peasants they were required to volunteer, but there were few genuine volunteers.
10. Local partisan formations also took part. Small partisan groups were set up, whose task was to make sudden attacks on transport columns and military depots. Transport units were required to be constantly on guard against such attacks, and their performance on defense against them was carefully examined.
11. Small guard groups were also made up of partisans, which watched magazines and quarters in the rear areas. These squads were each armed with machine-pistols, rifles and one light and one heavy machine gun each. Only well trained partisans were used. The soldiers of the regular formations were surprised at how widespread the partisan organization was.
12. Some of the soldiers said that in various villages left behind by the Sudeten Germans there were exercises in street fighting, carried on which live ammunition, and as a result some of the villages were shot to pieces.

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